

DIP Minutes 2/26/19

Meeting Commenced at 8:32 A.M.

In Attendance: Members: Gar Morse, Steve Carhart, Carley Cook, Kirk Svetaka and Chris Shea, MBTS Selectman Eli Boling, Town Administrator Greg Federspiel and approximately 18-20 interested citizens.

Initial discussions revolved around the School / Central St. intersection and the latest update within Complete Streets. Chris gave brief synopsis regarding the evolution of Complete Streets and suggested modifications to the plan including location of the stop sign, number of crosswalks, and reversing direction on Church Street. Gar felt that the VHP plan didn't take into consideration the historic nature of the town in its efforts to improve the intersection. He specifically opposed the use of "bumpouts". Steve and Kirk each mentioned our efforts to improve safety. Greg discussed the approximately \$240,000 in grant money which can be spent in full or in part on any of the four designated Complete Street projects before the Selectmen (School/Central, Beach/ Union, Summer/Washington, and Beach St. Sidewalk). Several citizens raised the issues of parking, crosswalk design, truck access, fire department access and need for data determining whether these projects need to be addressed in the first place. Gar made a motion that: The Selectmen not proceed with the Complete Streets projects until more study is done regarding parking, signage, truck accessibility, fire apparatus accessibility, crosswalk design and general safety issues. The motion was seconded by Carley. Following comments by Selectman Boling, the motion was amended so as to include only the School/Central and Beach/Union intersections. The motion carried 4-1 with Chris opposed. Following discussion, we also recommended to the Selectmen (although not in the form of a motion) that any plans related to Complete Streets should be "Parking Neutral".

We then addressed the speed limits in town. Following discussion, Chris made a motion that the speed limit on School St. from Route 128 to the Essex town line be raised to 40 MPH. Motion seconded by Gar and passed unanimously. Discussion then centered on Pine Street. Everyone agreed that 25 MPH beyond Pleasant St and 20 MPH inside Pleasant are very slow, but no agreement was reached on recommending a change.

We briefly discussed DIP's recommendations to: 1) shore up the boat ramp in winter with Jersey barriers and sand bags to prevent flooding and 2) create a pass through between the town hall parking lot and Beach Street. To date those efforts have been unsuccessful.

As some citizens have stated that the 8:30 AM time is inconvenient we set the next meeting for Tuesday, March 26th at 5:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned 9:55 AM

Respectfully submitted
Chris Shea